REMARKS

By way of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Claims 1-18 have been amended for clarification without in any way narrowing the scope of the claims, Claim 19 has been added, and a substitute specification has been provided to clarify and place the specification into proper idiomatic English. These changes have been made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 as amended on November 7, 2000. Marked-up versions of Claims 1-18 indicating the changes accompany this Preliminary Amendment, along with a marked-up copy of the specification showing the changes made by the substitute specification. No new matter has been added.

Early and favorable consideration with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. [Flow] **(Amended) A flow** machine [with] **comprising:**

a compressor [(2) and]**, said compressor having an intake duct;**

at least one turbine [(5), and in which]**;**

an exhaust duct connected to the at least one turbine directly or through intermediate elements;

a first booster stage ~~[(3) is]~~ arranged in [an] **the** intake duct [(1)] of the compressor [(2), wherein]**; and**

a second booster stage [(9) is] arranged in [an] **the** exhaust gas duct [(8)], [~~which connects to the turbine (5) directly or via intermediate elements (7),~~] or in a bypass [(duct) (10)] **duct** of the exhaust [gas] duct [(8)].

2. [Flow] **(Amended) A flow** machine [with] **comprising:**

a compressor [(2) with]**, said compressor having** an intake duct [(1)] and **a bypass duct to the intake duct;**

at least one turbine~~[(5), wherein]~~**;**

an exhaust duct connected to the at least one turbine directly or through intermediate elements;

a first booster stage ~~[(3) is]~~ arranged in [an] **the** bypass [(duct) (10) tothe] **duct to the** intake duct [(1),]**;** and

a second booster stage ~~[(9) is]~~ arranged in [an] **the** exhaust gas duct [(8) which connects ~~to the turbine (5) directly or via intermediate elements (7)~~], or in a bypass ~~[(duct) (10)]~~ **duct** of the exhaust gas duct ~~[(8)]~~.

3. [Flow] **(Amended) The flow** machine according to claim 1 or **claim** 2, wherein **at least ne of** the first booster stage ~~[(3) and/or]~~ **and** the second booster stage ~~[(9) consist(s) of]~~ **comprises** one or more [parallel or series arranged] booster

elements [(12)] with fans [(14)]**, the booster elements with fans being arranged in parallel or series**.

4. ~~[Flow]~~ **(Amended) The flow** machine according to claim 3, wherein the booster elements ~~[(12)]~~ have drives ~~[(13)]~~ which are designed as low voltage drives.

5. ~~[Flow]~~**(Amended) The flow** machine according to claim 3 ~~[or 4]~~, wherein the fans ~~[(14)]~~ of the booster elements ~~[(12)]~~ are driven by a speed-controlled drive~~[(13)]~~.

6. ~~[Flow]~~**(Amended) The flow** machine according to ~~[one of claims]~~ **claim** 3~~[-5]~~, wherein the fans ~~[(14)]~~ of the booster elements ~~[(12)]~~ are equipped with adjustable fan blades~~[(16)]~~.

7. ~~[Flow]~~**(Amended) The flow** machine according to ~~[one of claims]~~ **claim** 1~~[-6]~~, wherein a heat recovery system~~[, particularly a waste heat boiler (7),]~~ is provided as an intermediate element between the exhaust ~~[gas]~~ duct ~~[(8)]~~ and the turbine ~~[(5)]~~.

8. ~~[Flow]~~**(Amended) The flow** machine according to ~~[one of claims]~~ **claim** 1~~[-7]~~, wherein the first booster stage ~~[(3)]~~ and the second booster stage ~~[(9) are designed for optimizing the whole intake region as far as]~~ **optimize** the inlet of the intake air into the compressor~~[, or]~~ **for** the ~~[whole exhaust gas]~~ **entire intake** region ~~[from the]~~**, or** outlet of the exhaust gases from the turbine **for the whole exhaust gas region**, both with regard to ~~[the constructional embodiment]~~ **structural features of the intake region and the exhaust gas region** and with regard to flow technology.

9. [~~Flow~~]**(Amended) The flow** machine according to [~~one of claims~~] **claim** 1[~~-8~~], wherein the height of the exhaust [~~gas~~] duct [~~(8)~~] is reduced, relative to a flow machine without a second booster stage[~~(9)~~], the second booster stage [~~(9)~~] being designed for the compensation of the varied upward drive conditions **resulting** from the reduction of the [~~reduction of the~~] height of the exhaust [~~gas~~] duct[~~(8).~~]**.**

10. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) A process** for the operation of a flow machine according to [~~one or more of the foregoing claims, in which~~] **claim 1, wherein** the first booster stage [~~(3)~~] and the second booster stage [~~(9)~~] are operated, individually or in combination, in dependence on [~~the~~] specific operating conditions.

11. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein **at least one of** the [~~fist~~] **first** booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second [~~(9) is/are~~] **booster stage is** operated when there is a high power requirement or when the provision of reserve power is necessary.

12. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein **at least one of** the [~~fist~~] **first** booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second [~~(9) is/are~~] **booster stage is** operated when it is necessary to operate the flow machine for the purpose of frequency regulation.

13. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein [~~before the starting, and/or during the starting,~~] **at least one** of [~~the flow machine,~~] the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second booster stage [~~(9) is/are~~] **is** driven for the purpose of flushing the plant **during at least one of the period of time before starting the flow machine and the period of time after starting the flow machine.**

14. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein during **at least one of** the stopping[, and/or] **and** after the stopping[~~,~~] of the flow machine, **at least one of** the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second booster stage [~~(9) is/are~~] **is** operated for the purpose of cooling the plant.

15. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein during the starting, or during a power increase[~~,~~] of the flow machine, **at least one of** the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second booster stage [~~(9) is/are~~] **is** operated for the purpose of implementing an increased power gradient of the plant.

16. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein during the starting, or during a power increase[~~,~~] of the flow machine, **at least one of** the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second booster stage [~~(9) is/are~~] **is** operated for the purpose of a smooth operation of the plant at the same power gradient as without operation of the booster stages[~~(3, 9)~~].

17. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein [~~in~~] **during** operation **of at least one** of the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or~~] **and** the second booster stage[~~(9)~~], the firing power is reduced in order to provide the same output power of the flow machine as without the operation of **at least one of** the first booster stage [~~(3) and/or of~~] **and** the second booster stage[~~(9)~~].

18. [~~Process~~]**(Amended) The process** according to claim 10, wherein when it is necessary to improve the emission conditions, the second booster stage [~~(9)~~] is operated for an increase of the outlet speed and hence of the upward drive of the exhaust gases flowing from the exhaust gas duct[~~(8).~~].